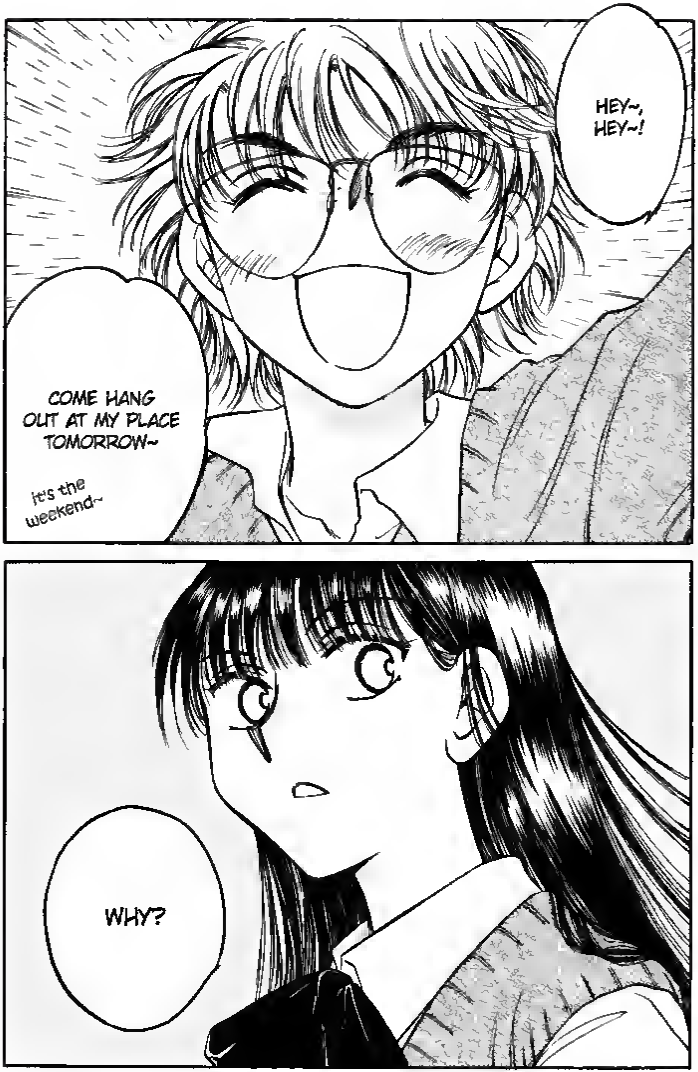
Chapter 8: The "maiden's" (?) day off

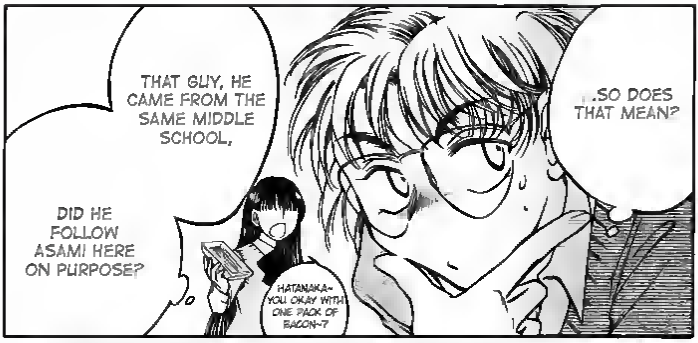

HEY~, HEY~!
COME HANG OUT AT MY PLACE TOMORROW~
it's the weekend~
WHY?

I WAS JUST WONDERING IF THERE WAS SOME EVENT OR SOMETHING!
NOT REALLY~
DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY!!
WAIT!! HATANAKA.
"WHY" "WHY"
OH C'MON, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU NEED ANY SPECIAL REASON TO HANG OUT~
OF COURSE YOU DON'T, BUT...
WOULD IT BE OKAY...
IF I STAYED OVER TODAY?

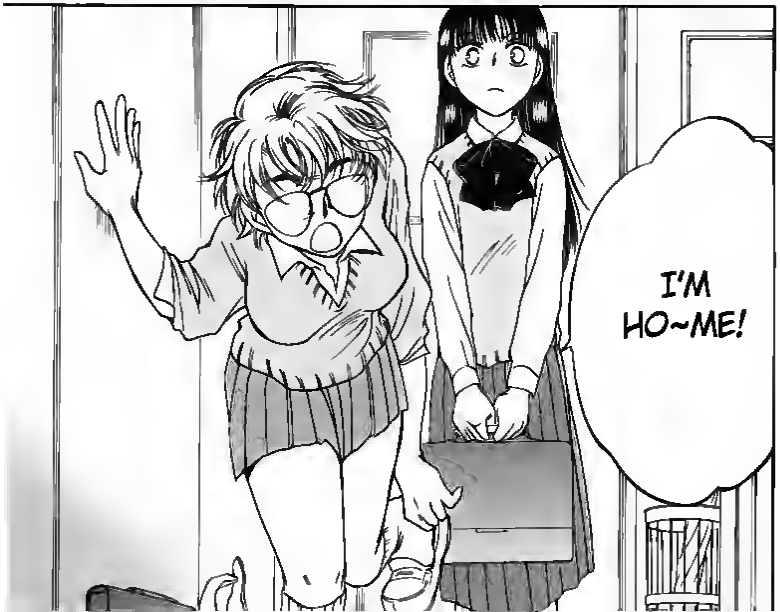
IS IT RUDE TO BE SO SUDDEN...
NOPE!!
YE . AH.
YEAH!
YEAH!!
BUT I WAS SURPRISED.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THE TYPE TO DO THAT KIND OF THING, ASAMI.
...sleepovers and stuff
IT TAKES TWO HOURS EITHER WAY,
SO A ROUND TRIP ON MY DAY OFF WOULD JUST BE A BOTHER
I SHOULD CALL MY MOM.
AH.
YEAH, THAT IS TRUE...

TWO HO.....?
AH!
MOM,
IS IT OKAY IF I BROUGHT A FRIEND OVER TODAY?
YEAH.
YEAH, OKAY.
NO~ IT'S FINE, SO...
SHE SAID "IT WON'T BE A FEAST, BUT GO AHEAD."
YUP!
THANKS.

I SEE...
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DID SAY THAT YOU TOOK THE ENTRANCE EXAM FROM OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT...
ALE
398
IT MUST BE HARD COMMUTING ALL THE WAY TO THE HEART OF THE CITY,
HE HEH,
I USED ALL KINDS OF UNDERHANDED TRICKS.
but it's still no big deal
I MEAN, THIS SCHOOL IS NOTHING SPECIAL, RIGHT?
MAKES YOU LAUGH TO THINK I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE, HUH?
HMM~?
MM .....
HM?


THAT GUY, HE CAME FROM THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL,
DID HE FOLLOW ASAMI HERE ON PURPOSE?
HATANAKA~ YOU OKAY WITH ONE PACK OF BACON~?
...SO DOES THAT MEAN?

That guy


I'M HO~ME!

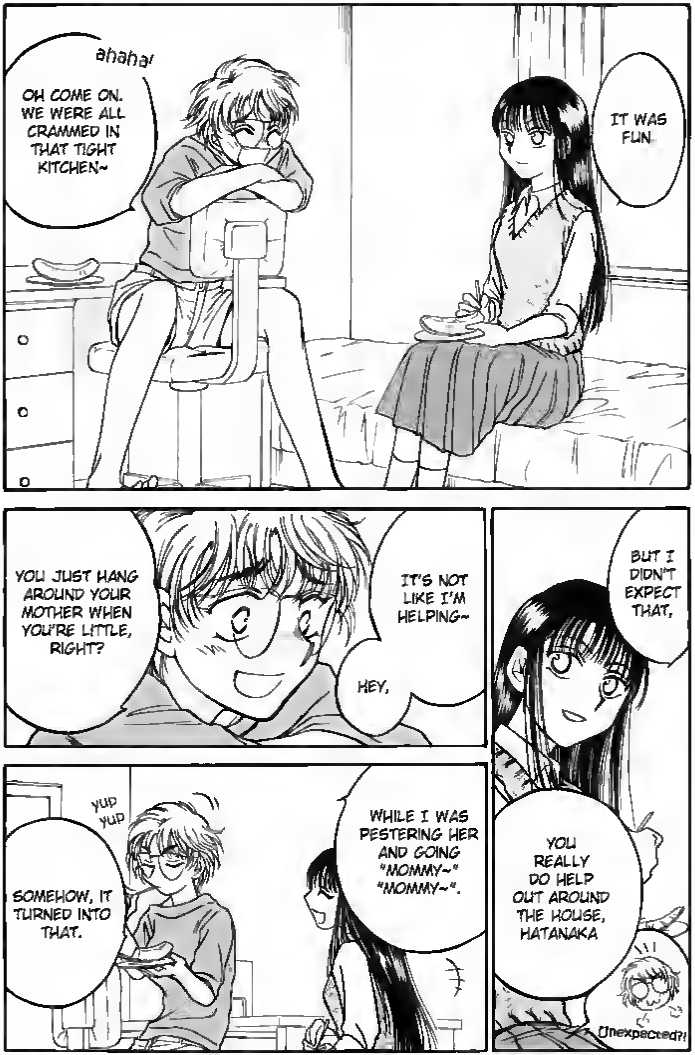
OH MY~
MO~M,
THIS IS ASAMI, SHE'S IN MY CLASS.
HELLO.
THANKS FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH KEIKO.
SAME HERE,
WE GET ALONG WELL.
ASAMI,
PUT THIS ON IF YOU WANT.
she's playing nice!
YOU SEEM TO BE A SERIOUS YOUNG LADY~!

KEIKO~ DO THE MINCING AFTER YOU CHANGE CLOTHES, OKAY?
... AN APRON ?
YES MA'AM~
HERE!
YOU CAN PEEL THESE, ASAMI-SAN!
I'LL GO GET THE ONIONS AND PARSLEY~
Oh, peas
"GO GET" .....

WE'RE GROWING PARSLEY AND RADISHES.
FROM THE PLANTER OUTSIDE.
AND WE RENT A FIELD AND GROW ONIONS, CARROTS, EGGPLANT, TOMATOES...
IT'S MY MOTHER'S HOBBY.
THAT'S A PRETTY PRACTICAL HOBBY...
SEVEN HUNDRED!?
Not seventy?
SHE SAID THAT SHE'S GONNA GROW 700 ONIONS THIS YEAR.
SHE'S GONNA MAKE YOU TAKE SOME HOME.
Fresh

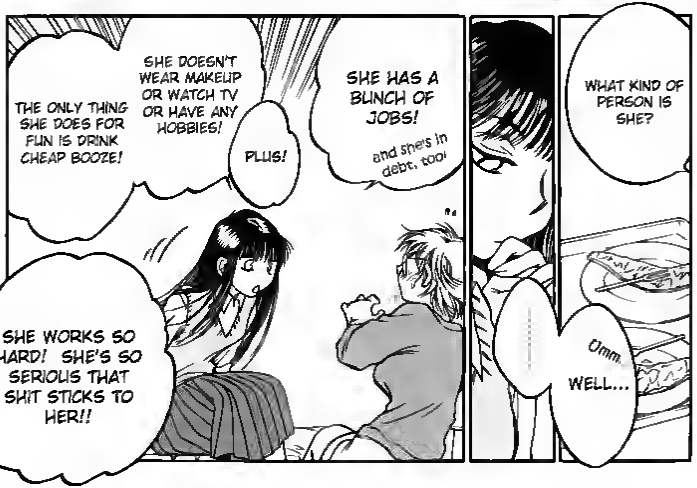
I'M HOME~
TOSHIKO~ TAKE CARE OF THE BATH~
HELLO, I'M ASAMI.
MY LITTLE SISTER~ THE SECOND DAUGHTER~
WHOA, FULL HOUSE..
BEFORE YOU GET IN THE BATH, CLOSE THE STORM DOORS.
WELCOME BACK~
MY FRIEND ASAMI-SAN CAME OVER~
NICE TO MEET...
WE HAVE SASHIMI TODAY, DAD.
OH! ♡
WHICH-EVER!
MOM~ CAN I MIX SOME RICE IN?
WHICH PLATES DO I USE?
JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CRUSH THE BEANS~

ITA~DAKIMASU!!
YOU WANT SOME KETCHUP, ASAMI-SAN?
NO THANKS ..
UH...
YOU'RE STILL PUTTING MAYONNAISE ON EVERYTHING~
YOU CAN HAVE SECONDS IF YOU WANT!
OOH, WHO CARES IF I DO~?
OUR HOUSE IS NOISY, ISN'T IT?

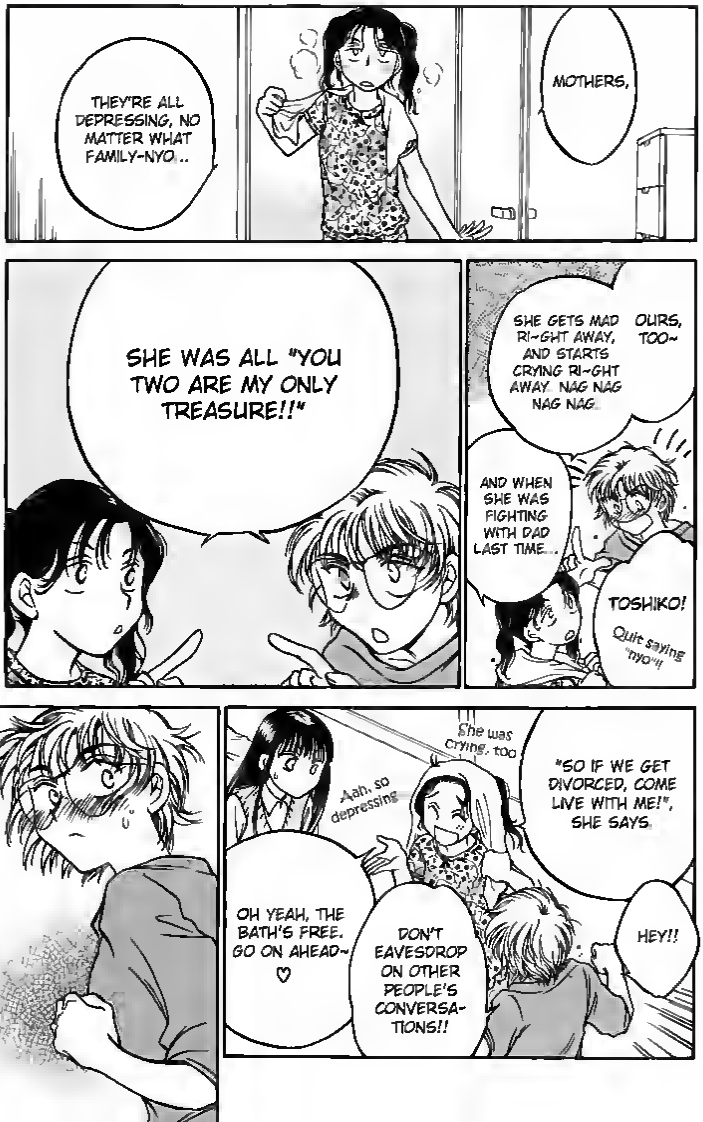

ahaha!
OH COME ON. WE WERE ALL CRAMMED IN THAT TIGHT KITCHEN~
IT WAS FUN.
YOU JUST HANG AROUND YOUR MOTHER WHEN YOU'RE LITTLE, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M HELPING~
HEY,
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT,
YUP YUP
SOMEHOW, IT TURNED INTO THAT.
WHILE I WAS PESTERING HER AND GOING "MOMMY~" "MOMMY~".
YOU REALLY DO HELP OUT AROUND THE HOUSE, HATANAKA
Unexpected?!

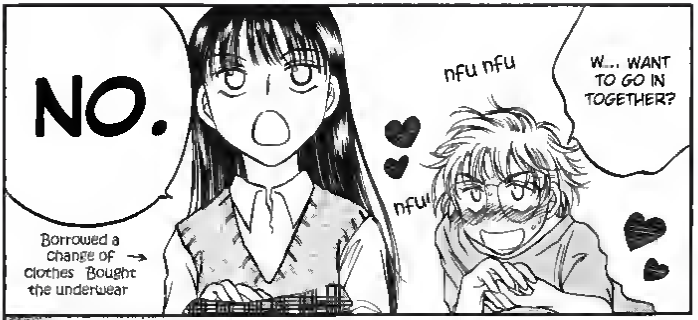
OH?
HATANAKA,
YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT UP PRETTY WELL.
EVEN THOUGH THE LOAN ON THIS HOUSE...
...HAS ABOUT 20 YEARS LEFT ON IT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
HOW DO YOU SAY,
UMM...
IT'S LIKE YOU WORRY ABOUT THE THINGS YOU SHOULD.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PLACE, ASAMI...
IT'S JUST MY MOM
.....


WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?
Umm
WELL....
SHE HAS A BUNCH OF JOBS!
and she's in debt, too!
PLUS!
SHE DOESN'T WEAR MAKEUP OR WATCH TV OR HAVE ANY HOBBIES!
THE ONLY THING SHE DOES FOR FUN IS DRINK CHEAP BOOZE!
SHE WORKS SO HARD! SHE'S SO SERIOUS THAT SHIT STICKS TO HER!!

SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE THINKS SHE'S THE UNHAPPIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.
AND...
YUP, SHE'S A PRETTY DEPRESSING PERSON.


THEY'RE ALL DEPRESSING, NO MATTER WHAT FAMILY-NYO..
MOTHERS,
SHE WAS ALL "YOU TWO ARE MY ONLY TREASURE!!"
SHE GETS MAD RI~GHT AWAY, AND STARTS CRYING RI~GHT AWAY NAG NAG NAG NAG..
OURS, TOO~
AND WHEN SHE WAS FIGHTING WITH DAD LAST TIME...
TOSHIKO!
Quit saying "nyo"!!
Aah, so depressing
She was crying, too
"SO IF WE GET DIVORCED, COME LIVE WITH ME!", SHE SAYS.
HEY!!
OH YEAH, THE BATH'S FREE. GO ON AHEAD~ ♡
DON'T EAVESDROP ON OTHER PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS!!



I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR TO PUSH IT.

IT MAKES ME UN-SURE

IT'S LIKE I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND ASAMI, NO MATTER WHAT I TRY...

THAT'S

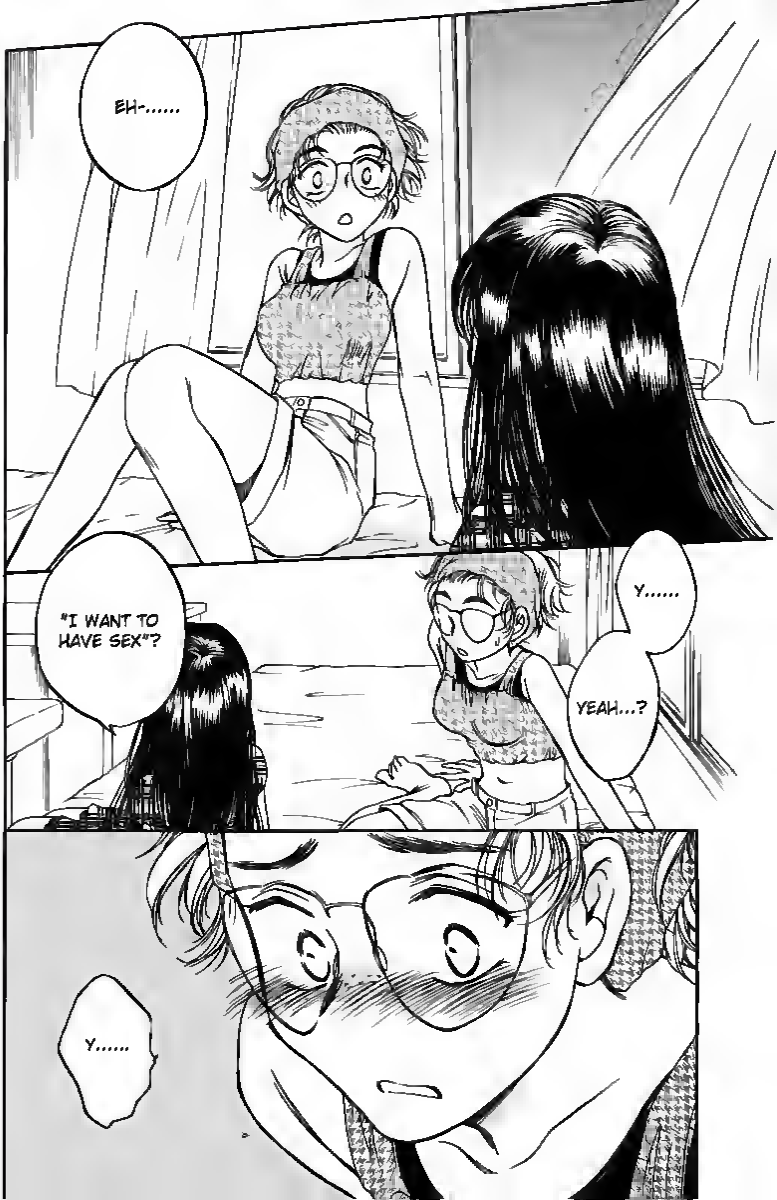
THE BAD FEELING THAT I GOT...
AAH, ASAMI.
IF WE'D GONE IN TOGETHER...
OH.
THEY CALL ME "GOLDFINGER"!
nfu fu fu fu
I'M NOT BRAGGING, BUT
MY FINGERS ARE AWESOME~
BE... CAUSE... I'M...
REALLY GOOD WITH SHAMPOO!
JUST NOW!!
HEHE~H, BUT YOU'RE WRONG~
YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING DIRTY, WEREN'T YOU!?

FUU,
NIGHTTIME, HUH.
IT FEELS LIKE SUMMER'S ALREADY STARTED,
RIGHT?
THE RAINY SEASON'S COMING UP SOON, TOO.

...DON'T THEY...
...SAY YOU GET LONELY WHEN IT'S THE EVENING?
YOU KNOW, I...
AT NIGHT,
I GET REEE~ALLY LONELY.
EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE 24-HOUR FAMILY RESTAURANTS...
AND CONVENIENCE STORES...
AND THE CITY'S FILLED WITH PEOPLE EVEN AT NIGHT,
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY GONE WALKING AROUND THEN, YOU KNOW?

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY PAMPERED, HUH.
NO,
I'VE JUST NEVER HAD ANY REAL REASON TO GO OUT AT NIGHT.
THERE'S TONS OF FUN THINGS DURING THE NIGHT THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT,
SO IT FEELS KIND OF LIKE THERE'S A LOT THAT I'M MISSING OUT ON.
NOT REALLY.
IT'S NOT TOO MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE AFTERNOON.
PEOPLE I KNOW GET BORED WHEN THEY STAY INSIDE,
SO THEY ALL GO OUT
OH YEAH,
YOU'RE USED TO THAT WORLD.
I'M SO JEALOUS~

IT'S NOTHING TO BE ENVIOUS OF.
YEAH, BUT
I STILL AM...
.....
.....HEY.
DO YOU STILL WANT TO BECOME A "PROSTITUTE" OR WHATEVER?


EH-.....
"I WANT TO HAVE SEX"?
Y.....
YEAH...?
Y.....

WHA!?
WHY NOT JUST GET IT OVER WITH?
.....YEAH.
AH, OKAY.
THEN,
LET ME BORROW THIS.
YOU CAN STILL GO OUT ONCE.
EVEN IF IT'S NIGHTTIME,
AND YOU CAN HAVE A GO WITH HIM.
I'LL JUST CALL HONDA OR SOMEBODY,
WHAT?
EH?
WHAT?

Y-...
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT!?
I'M SERIOUS.
QUIT IT.
COME ON!!
THAT GUY LIKES YOU, RIGHT!?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY.
HE'D DO IT IF I ASKED HIM TO, RIGHT?

STOP IT, STOP IT!!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!

I'M NOT.
ASAMI, WHY...
ARE YOU MAD?

A~SAM!~~
へな。
NIGHTLIFE AND SEX,
ANYONE CAN DO IT.
E~VERY-ONE'S DOING IT.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ENVIOUS OF,
NOT AT ALL.
BUT I...
...CAN'T JUST GO AND SAY "YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT."
ASA...
IF ONLY I HAD A DICK!!
AA~GH!

THEN, RIGHT AWAY,
I'D GIVE IT TO YOU ONCE OR TWICE...
UMM, UMM,
D_
DI_?
Can't say it
I...
...LIKE YOU BETTER WITHOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ASAMI...

シュガーは乙年頃

Sugar wa Otoshigoro

Chapter 8:
The "maiden's" (?) day off

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